



Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet

EXHIBITION

The Threads that Bind: Textiles by Kentucky Artisans

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BEREA, Ky. – A new exhibit, “The Threads that Bind: Textiles by Kentucky Artisans,” will open Sept. 1, at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea, and will be on display through Feb. 23, 2013.

This exhibit showcases the work of 21 Kentucky artisans who create a wide range of work including clothing, jewelry, wall art, sculpture, quilts and more. Works on display are composed of fabric, fiber and/or thread, with significant use of thread or other fiber strands to weave, embellish, construct, shape, quilt or otherwise create the design.

Pattern, texture, abstraction, symbolism, innovation, realism and whimsy can all be found in this colorful exhibition. With works ranging from Philis Alvic’s complex, patterned and layered weaving, “Park and Pond View,” to Stacey R. Chinn’s playful knitted rendition of sausage links entitled, “What’s for Dinner?” this exhibit includes a myriad of techniques and approaches to working with textiles and thread.

Several artists have hand-dyed a variety of fabrics to create texture and pattern and then added further definition and detail with stitching. Pat Darif’s “Red River Gorge: Spring,” Ann Butwell’s “Tree of Life,” and Marti Plager’s “Dreaming,” all use the dyed fabric surface as a foundation for their abstract landscapes. Margaret Merida pieces hand-dyed fabrics to create a shimmering sunset in her work, “Red Tide.” Abstraction becomes serene in the warp-dyed landscape weaving, “Earth Etudes No. 4,” by Dobree Adams and the meditative wall quilt, “Japanese Rock Garden,” by Marilyn Foulke.

Symbolism is present in numerous works including Jennifer Reis’s bead embellished work, “Seven for a Secret,” based on the Irish folklore poem “Seven for the Secret Never Told,” which speaks of foretelling the future by counting magpies. Cindy Vough’s wall quilt “Keys,” uses stenciled and screen printed key images along with actual metal keys sewn onto the work.

“Keys seem so symbolic to me – the key to knowledge, key to your heart, key to the answers, the key to a good life – the list is infinite and appealing,” states Vough.

A number of artists in the exhibit use traditional textile methods in innovative ways. Lily Liu has used monofilament and agate to create an airy and open knitted necklace, while Stacey R. Chinn has created a necklace titled “Spike,” using soft knitted fiber to reference a dog collar. Inspired by the fabric storage method of a quilting friend, Liu has bundled fabric into numerous small rolls and tied them together with thread to create a three dimensional vessel.

Some works in this exhibit are narrative. Felice Sachs’s wall piece, “It Takes Work,” represents the lengthy processes that encompass the production of a hand woven

blanket or coverlet, from shearing the sheep to the final weaving. Sachs includes stitched written commentary along with historical weaving and treading patterns in her design.

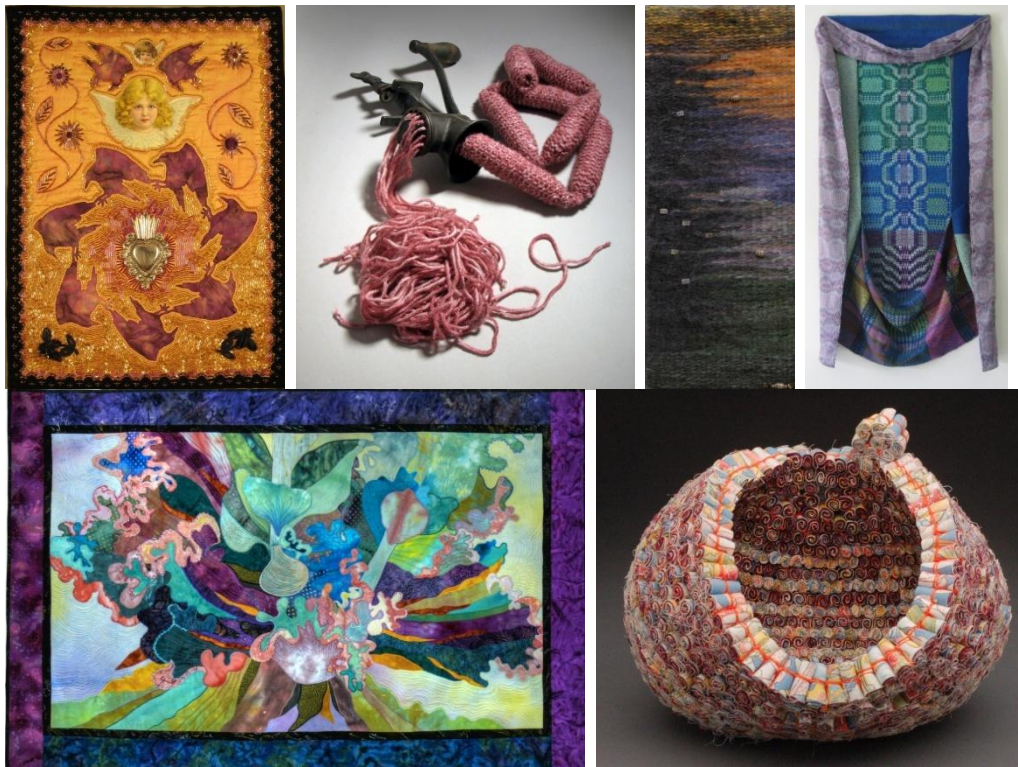
Realism can also be seen in Pat Jennings's brilliantly colored rendering of a ruffled cactus plant in her work titled, "Succulent," and in Yvonne Abma Fritze's work "Horses in the Round." Barrett Shaw's elaborately embroidered and delicate work titled "Siphonophorae," is based on the close-up drawings and paintings of early 20th century German naturalist Ernst Haeckel. In this work, Shaw portrays close-ups of four species of hydra using embroidery floss, wool and acrylic yarn, beads, cotton crochet thread and cord, and even shoestrings.

Participating textile artists include Dobree Adams, Frankfort; Lydia P. Allen, Pewee Valley; Philis Alvic, Lexington; Ann Butwell, Berea; Stacey R. Chinn, Lexington; Mary Colmer, Berea; Pat DaRif, Louisville; Marilyn Foulke, Louisville; Yvonne Abma Fritze, Louisville; Pat Jennings, Berea; Gloria Kemper-O'Neil, Louisville; Lily Liu, Paducah; Gena Mark, Lexington; Margaret Merida, Farmington; Marti Plager, Louisville; Bobbie Rafferty, Louisville; Jennifer Reis, Morehead; Felice Sachs, Louisville; Barrett Shaw, Louisville; Cindy Vough, Lexington; and Joanne Weis, Louisville.

A public meet-the-artists reception will be held Sunday, Sept. 30, from 1-3 p.m. at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea. The center is located at 200 Artisan Way, just off Interstate 75 at Berea exit 77.

The center's exhibits, shopping and travel information areas are open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., with the cafe open from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is free. The center currently features works by more than 650 artisans from 100 counties across the Commonwealth. For more information call 859-985-5448 or visit the center's website at www.kentuckyartisancenter.ky.gov.

The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea is an agency in the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



Photos Top left and clockwise: "Seven for a Secret" by Jennifer Reis; "What's for Dinner?" by Stacey R. Chinn; "Earth Etudes No. 4" by Dobree Adams; "Park and Pond View" by Philis Alvic; "1003" by Lily Liu; and "Succulent" by Pat Jennings